

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:ARAPHEL:DAM

APPROVED BY P:DNEWSOM

NEA - JMIKLOS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S VISIT

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RELEASE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEWSOM TRIP AT NOON BRIEFING JULY 6. YOU SHOULD PASS TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT TO HOST GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS INFORMATION, AFTERNOON JULY SIXTH YOUR TIME. TEXT FOLLOWS:

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVID D. NEWSOM WILL DEPART ON JULY 8, ON A TRIP TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN ASIA. HE WILL VISIT IRAN, AFGHANISTAN PAKISTAN, INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA, AND WILL MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS AND OUR EMBASSIES IN EACH OF THE CAPITALS.

THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WILL BE TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN. THIS WILL BE THE UNDER SECRETARY'S FIRST VISIT TO THE AREA IN HIS PRESENT POSITION, AND WILL GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME DIRECTLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE STATES IN THE AREA.

2. WE HAVE PREPARED CONTINGENCY QS AND AS TO BE USED ON IF-ASKED BASIS WHICH POSTS MAY DRAW ON IN RESPONSE TO

QUERIES AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE. IF NEWS OF TRIP LEAKS, AND YOU RECEIVE INQUIRIES, YOU SHOULD NEITHER CONFIDENTIAL

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FIRM NOR DENY THAT TRIP IS PLANNED AND REFER ALL QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT. CONTINGENCY QS AND AS FOLLOW:

Q: WHY IS NEWSOM GOING NOW?

A: THE UNDER SECRETARY HAS NOT YET VISITED THE AREA IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AND WANTS TO BETTER INFORM HIMSELF OF THE CONCERNS AND VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS HE WILL BE SEEING. HIS TRIP HIGHLIGHTS OUR INTEREST IN THE AREA AND OUR POLICY OF MAINTAINING CONSULTATIONS WITH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS.

Q: WHY IS HE GOING TO INDIA SO SOON AFTER THE DESAI VISIT? IS THERE ANY CONNECTION WITH THE DESAI VISIT?

A: THE TIMING OF THE UNDER SECRETARY'S TRIP WAS BASED ON WHAT IS CONVENIENT FOR THE GOVERNMENTS WITH WHICH HE WILL BE MEETING AND HIS OWN SCHEDULE. IT IS NOT A FOLLOW-ON TRIP TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S VISIT HERE. IT WAS FELT THAT DURING HIS VISIT TO THE AREA, A STOP IN INDIA WOULD BE LOGICAL AND APPROPRIATE.

Q: DOES THE TRIP HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE RECENT COUP IN KABUL?

A: AS NOTED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE UNDER SECRETARY WILL BE DISCUSSING MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE COUNTRIES HE WILL VISIT. ANY EVENT OF IMPORTANCE IN THE REGION COULD CERTAINLY BE DISCUSSED.

Q: BUT IS HE MAKING THE TRIP IN RESPONSE TO EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN?

A: THE TRIP IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF ANY STATE. HE WILL BE VISITING KABUL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING OFFICIALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. I WOULD PREFER NOT TO SPECULATE ON THE CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATIONS HE MAY HAVE.

Q: WHY IS HE VISITING THESE SPECIFIC COUNTRIES?

A: THE UNITED STATES HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES THE UNDER SECRETARY IS VISITING. THESE COUNTRIES ARE LOGICAL STOPS ON HIS ITINERARY. VANCE

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